U.L.F.A.

723 SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate any dialogue with ULFA and other similar organisations of the NE region;

(b) whether any specific steps have been taken in this direction and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India believes in solution of problems through talks and negotiations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence. No talks have been initiated with ULFA or other similar organisations of the NE region, as they have not, as of now, indicated their willingness for talks within the above parameters and are continuing with violence. The Government of India categorically rejects violence as a means of achieving any objective.

Train from Trivandrum

724 SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the introduction of new Express train from Trivandrum (*via*) Alleppey, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demands for new express trains from Trivandrum via Alleppey include Trivandrum-Guruvayour Intercity Express and express train from Trivandrum to New Delhi and Jaipur.

Shatabdi Express

725 SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce two trains from New Jalpaiguri and Calcutta in morning and back in the evening in both the directions, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Arms Dropping

726 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which the Ministry of first got the hint from RAW about the probable arms drop in India by a small aircraft from Karachi and the date on which the arms were dropped in Purulia;

(b) the dates on which the erring officials were first suspended for their lapses and the final action taken against them and

(c) the present position of the inquiry conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The R&AW's U.O. Note dated 25.11.1995 indicated of a plan of landing of a small aircraft in Dhanbad area of Bihar for delivering arms consignment in that area. The arms consignment was airdropped on the night of 17/18th December, 1995 in Purulia District of West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation which has been entrusted with the investigation of this case has submitted reports highlighting certain administrative lapses on the part of different agencies that came to light during the investigation. The concerned authorities have been apprised of the reports of the CBI for appropriate action.

Loco and Carriage Factories at Ajmer

727 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the progress made so far to convert the oldest and the largest Loco and Carriage factories located at Ajmer according to the requirements of Broad gauge lines;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on each of these two factories for this purpose;

(c) the time by which the work on these two factories is likely to be completed and estimated capacity of these two factories thereafter, and;

(d) the measures taken to ensure smooth running of these factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Conversion of Carriage Works at Ajmer is a sanctioned work. 25% physical progress has already been made and Periodic Overhaul (POH) of BG coaches in this workshop has also commenced. BG AC coach POH facilities are also being planned in this workshop during the current year. Loco works at Ajmer is also being planned to be converted to undertake POH of BG wagons.

(b) Upto March, 1996 an expenditure of Rs.0.60 crores has been incurred on Carriage workshop at Ajmer.

(c) The work of conversion of Ajmer Carriage workshop is likely to be completed by March, '98. The estimated POH capacity is 125 four wheeler units of JG coaches per month. The proposed capacity of Ajmer Loco workshop is estimated to be 400 four wheeler units of POH of RG wagons per month.

(d) Sufficient funds are being allocated for expediting the conversion work.

[English]

Push Full Trains

728. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of Push Pull train along with their routes, introduced by the Southern Railway so far,

(b) whether Push Pull trains are proposed to be introduced on any other sections in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) At present, 29 Push Pull trains are running on Southern Railway in the following routes,

(i) Bangalore-Mysore
(ii) Bangalore-Tumkur-Arsikere
(iii) Bangalore-Yelhanka
(iv) Ernakulam-Alleppey-Kayamkulam
(v) Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam-Quilon
(vi) Ernakulam-Trichur-Guruvayour

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise

Stoppage at Asansol

729. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the stoppage of 2301/2302 at Asansol and to run it daily instead of five days a week;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

Food in Shatabdi Express

730. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the menu of refreshment and food served in Shatabdi Express running between Delhi and Bhopal has not been changed for the last three or four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Items of refreshment, breakfast and food service in the menu are rotated from time to time.

Kolhapur-Ratnagiri-Belgaum

731 SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any requests to connect Kolhapur with Ratnagiri and Belgaum have been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether some decision to undertake survey of these areas has been undertaken in March-April, 1996.

(d) whether some initial work has since been started in the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (e) A survey for new BG rail line from Kolhapur to Ratnagiri on Konkan Railway *via* Talwade, has been taken up

(f) Does not arise

Crimes in Trains

732 SHRI R.L.P VERMA
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether looting incidents in trains have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total number of FIRs lodged/registered and the number of persons arrested during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether two women were raped by the armed miscreants while looting the Ranchi-Lohardagga train on June 23,1996;

(d) if so, whether an FIR has been lodged/registered at Piskangri Police Station in this regard;